

On DACTYLOSCOPUS and LEPTOSCOPUS, two New Genera of the Family of
Uranoscopidae.

BY THEO. GILL.

DACTYLOSCOPUS Gill.

Body elongated, with the dorsal and abdominal outlines slowly converging to the caudal fin. Scales large, regularly imbricated. Lateral line straight, and running along the middle of the side. Head oblong, subcubical and smooth. Preopercle entire, opercle radiately fringed behind. Mouth nearly vertical. Tongue thick, narrowed anteriorly, attached to the floor of the mouth. Labial velum without a barbel. Anus a short distance behind the base of the pectoral fins. Dorsal fin subequal, single and very long, commencing above or before the anus, and continued almost to the base of the caudal. Anal fin commencing behind the anus, and with the same form and termination as the dorsal. Caudal fin small and narrow, posteriorly subtruncated. Pectoral fins subangular. Ventral fins jugular, closely approximated, and each with three stout simple and articulated rays.

D. tridigitatus Gill.—The head from the snout to the margin of the opercle forms about a fifth of the extreme length.

The greatest height is equal to a seventh of the same. The caudal fin forms an eighth. The dorsal commences over the lower angle of the base of the pectorals, or immediately before the margin of the operculum.

D 40, A 34, C 1, 5, 5, 1, P 13, V 3.

The color, as far as preserved, is gray, marbled with white.

Three specimens were obtained by the describer at the island of Barbadoes. The largest is slightly more than three inches in length. They are all in a bad state of preservation.

This is a most interesting genus, from the unusual combination of the characters which it presents. From all the species that have been hitherto referred to the genus *Uranoscopus*, it is at once distinguished by the entire absence of teeth on the palatine arch, and by the presence of only *three rays* to each of the ventral fins. Notwithstanding these anomalous characters, it presents so close a resemblance in general form to a species that has been described by Sir John Richardson, as *Uranoscopus macropygus*, that it might readily be referred to the genus by a casual observer. The same smooth head, the same gradually tapering body, the long dorsal and anal continued to the base of the caudal, the regularly imbricated scales, the straight and median lateral line, and the fringed operculum, are seen in both genera. In most of these characters, the two fishes are unlike any of the other *Uranoscopi*. *Dactyloscopus* is again distinguished from the so-called *Uranoscopus macropygus*, besides the two characters that have been already pointed out by the relative length of the dorsal and anal fins, and by the relative situation of the ventrals to each other. In the first described by Richardson, the anus is even more forward than in the West Indian species, and the anal fin commences immediately behind. The dorsal begins at some distance behind the nape, and over the sixth or seventh anal ray. The ventrals are also separated from each other by a wide interval. In the genus *Dactyloscopus* the dorsal commences above the lower angle of the pectorals, and therefore considerably in advance of the anal fin. The ventrals are also closely approximated to each other, and in this respect, resemble the typical *Uranoscopi*. *Uranoscopus macropygus* has a smaller operculum than *Dactyloscopus tridigitatus*, and this operculum is also triangular and fringed along its upper margin. The former species having been placed in the genus *Uranoscopus*, it is, of course, to be understood that it is provided with teeth on the vomer and palatine bones. As it is advisable that it should be erected into a distinct genus, the name of *Leptoscopus* is now conferred on it, and the comparative characters of the two genera are herewith given.

[April,

I. DACTYLOSCOPUS Gill.

Dentes palatini et vomerini nulli. Pinnæ ventrales radiis tribus articulatis, approximate. Pinna dorsalis ante anum incipiens.

D. tridigitatus.

Hab.—Caribbean sea.

II. LEPTOSCOPIUS Gill.

Dentes palatini et vomerini. Pinnæ ventrales distantes, radiis spinosis et quinque ramosis. Pinna dorsalis post anum incipiens.

L. macropygus.

Syn. *Uranoscopus macropygus* Richardson, Zoology Erebus and Terror, Fishes, p. 55, pl. 33, figs. 4, 5, 6, 1846.

Hab.—Australia.

The first two characters given in each of the above generic diagnoses, are in this case of more than generic importance. Had either of them existed alone, the genera might possibly have been naturally placed in the same tribe or subfamily. Combined as they are, they appear to be unquestionably the indices of distinct groups. *Dactyloscopus* is therefore placed as the type of one subfamily,—*Dactyloscopinæ*, and *Leptoscopus* of another—*Leptoscopinæ*. Notwithstanding the abnormal and blennoid structure of the ventrals, and the absence of the vomerine or palatine teeth, the *Dactyloscopinæ* appear to be almost as much related to the *Leptoscopinæ*, as the latter are to the *Uranoscopinæ*, properly so called. The comparison between the two former has been instituted on account of their close external resemblance, and not because they are believed to be very nearly allied to each other.

Catalogue of Birds collected on the Rivers Camma and Ogobai, Western Africa, by Mr. P. B. DuChaillu, in 1858, with notes and descriptions of new species.

BY JOHN CASSIN.

(Continued.)

129. LAMPROCOLIUS SPLENDIDUS, (Vieill.)

Turdus splendidus, Vieill. Ency. Meth. i. p. 653.

Lamprotornis chrysonotis, Sw. B. of W. Afr., i. p. 143, (1837.)

Sw. B. W. Afr. i. pl. 6.

Apparently a common species in the country on the banks of the Camma and Ogobai. ♂ young. Upper parts lustrous metallic green, under parts dull black with a few lustrous green and purple feathers on the flanks and under tail coverts.

130. LAMPROCOLIUS PURPUREICEPS, (J. and E. Verreaux.)

Lamprotornis purpureiceps, J. and E. Verreaux, Rev. et Mag. Zool., 1851, p. 418.

Specimens from the Ogobai and Rembo, and formerly from the Muni and Moonda.

131. HYPHANTORNIS TEXTOR, (Gmelin.)

Oriolus textor, Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 392.

Buff. Pl. Enl. 375, 376. Sw. Zool. III., i. pl. 37.

Specimens from the Camma and Ogobai, and formerly from the Moonda, are not to be distinguished from others in the Acad. Coll. from Gambia. This species appears to be common in Equatorial Africa.

132. HYPHANTORNIS CINCTUS, nobis.

Resembling *H. textor*, but smaller and with a wide transverse band of chestnut on the breast. ♂ Head and throat black, which color ends in a point on the breast, upper part of body greenish yellow, feathers on the back black at base, quills and upper coverts of wings brownish black edged with yellow, uni-

1859.]